



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 25.48 Thursday, November 28, 2019 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Tigers fall to Brighton, 22-19, in State Semis

By Robert Mytych
Independent Sports Writer

Belleville Tigers football team's bid to advance to its first-ever state final, fell two points shy in the final minute of play in its semifinal game against Brighton on Saturday at Howell High School.

The game was as close as it could be as both teams exchanged the lead nearly every quarter. Belleville trailed 7-6 after one quarter and 14-13 at the half.

The two teams kept each other off the scoreboard through three quarters before the Tigers took a 19-14 lead in the fourth when Belleville's Ty Trayon Lewis scored on a 33-yard rush with just under 12 minutes remaining in the game. Trailing by five, the Bulldogs got the ball back with six minutes left.

The Tigers were flagged for three straight penalties, including a too-many-men-on-the-field call, a personal foul, then a pass interference, which set the stage for Brighton in the final minute of play. A fake handoff and a Hail Mary completion in the end zone gave the Bulldogs the lead and the eventual win as time expired.

Belleville Quarterback Christian Dhue-Reid threw 9-for-18, good for 138 yards, a pair of touchdowns and one interception. It was the second year in a row the Tigers bowed out in the state semi finals. The Tigers had beaten Brighton twice in season opening contests in 2017 and 2018. Belleville finished the year at 12-1.

The Brighton Bulldogs head for the Division 1 championship game against Davison next Saturday at Ford Field. It will be the first appearance in the finals for both teams.



Laurain named president of Wayne Co. Assoc. of Chiefs of Police

On Nov. 19, 34th District Court Judge David M. Parrott swore in Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Gregory M. Laurain as president of the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police.

The swearing-in ceremony of the incoming executive board took place during its monthly meeting held at Wayne County Community College, Ted Scott Campus.

Laurain has served and held several positions on the executive board, including secretary and vice president.

Sworn in were, from left (in picture at left), Michigan State Police Captain Tom Deasy as treasurer, Livonia Chief Curtis Caid as past president, Plymouth Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Al Cox as secretary, Westland Chief Jeff Jedrusik as sergeant at arms, Northville Chief Al Maciag as vice president, and Laurain as president.

Laurain will represent member police chiefs, directors and executive-level law enforcement professionals across Wayne County during his term.

"It is an honor to serve in the position," said Laurain. "I look forward to carrying on the mission and goals of the organization."

"We will continue to provide our collective advice and take strong stances on any issue affecting law enforcement in Wayne County."



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Barbara Rogalle Miller retires after 40 years as attorney

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After 40 years as an attorney in family law in Belleville, Barbara Rogalle Miller is taking down her shingle and retiring.

The office in downtown Belleville will close as of Dec. 1 and she will spend a month cleaning it out. Then, she said attorneys Bryon Kelley and John Evanchek will be moving in to expand their legal practice now based in Canton.

Miller is not selling her practice or her building, but she expects some of her clients will transfer over to the new firm.

She has been contacting clients to pick up their files and they've been coming.

"It's the right decision at the right time," said Miller, who turned 80 last spring.

She said she plans to learn how to seek grants for all the organizations she has worked with over the years. "I know I can do it," she said.

She also plans to do some traveling.

"It's been wonderful to practice law in my community," Miller said. "I had so many friends, knew so many people from Rogalle's, who became clients and continued as friends."

She referred to her family's bar and restaurant on Haggerty Road at I-94 which she ran after her parents died.

"The credentials in being an attorney gives you standing. I've been able to take on issues in the community."

She said her family law practice included divorce and custody, real estate, and probate cases.

"My background as a teacher made me very aware of families and to be sure to make decisions in the best interests of the children," she said.

She said she regularly referred clients to counselors she trusted to go beyond what she could do, such as psychiatric advice.

She said she spent lots of time helping clients to come to an understanding of their situations, not to change or reform it, but to come to an understanding of what it is.

"I'm going to miss all the traffic and activity and exchange," she said, noting she will continue to be active in the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, the Wayne County Arts Council, and the Detroit Institute of Arts Authority Board. She plans to help promote the DIA's recently announced millage request.

"It's been a huge blessing to have Cathy Johnson for 26 years," she said of her assistant. "We've never had an argument. She is very considerate, competent, and has tremendous follow-through. She's staying with the new people... Cathy has been wonderful, incredible, outstanding."

Miller said she was born at the University of Michigan Hospital after her family

moved to Belleville.

Her grandmother moved to Belleville in 1917 after getting into trouble with Detroit Police after she beat up an officer with a broom. The officer was kicking a drunk boy in the head as he was collapsed on the ground, and after telling the officer she knew the boy and would watch over him, the officer continued kicking the boy and she beat him off with her broom.

The Black Maria wagon came, drawn by horses, and she was taken off to jail. The neighbors made such a fuss at the police department that they let her off. She had eight children and a green card and decided Detroit was no place to live. They moved to Belleville because other relatives were there.

Miller said all the family members worked on her grandparents' farm.

She said her parents moved to Belleville and bought a dance hall, Edison Lake Gardens. She said her father was certain Prohibition would end and two years later it did and he got a liquor license. She said the family lived above the bar and when she was four years old -- in 1943 -- it burned down. She and her two brothers and parents stayed with the Pryzstups, who were relatives, all living together in a small house on Savage Road.

Her father built the home on Harmony Lane in which she still resides.

Miller attended the Belleville schools through the eighth grade and then went to a parochial school, St. Mary's Academy in Monroe. There were 110 students in her class.

Then she attended Michigan State, where her brother Mickey was a student, but it was too large for her and after two years she transferred to Marygrove College where she earned a bachelor of arts in English and then got a Ford Foundation Scholarship to the University of Notre Dame for her master's degree in teaching in 1961.

She taught in Elkhart and South Bend, Indiana, and those were "the happiest days of my life." But, things changed.

"My dad's health was failing and he wanted me home, so I came home," Miller recalls. She then taught at Birmingham Seaholm, which was closer.

"My dad opened the bar and I came back to help my folks and take care of my brother Lawrence," she recalled. Lawrence had special needs and Miller took care of him until he died.

She turned down several opportunities that arose, including an offer at age 26 to be head of the English Department at a top-rated school district in Indiana and another offer to be head librarian at Henry Ford Community College, while she was still in



Barbara Rogalle Miller

library school.

Although both positions were very appealing, "I had to do what I was doing," she said of helping her family. "So many people were counting on me. I couldn't veer off."

While running the bar, she went to librarian school at the University of Michigan and graduated in 1971.

After Title IX was passed banning discrimination of women and minorities, her mother said she should go to law school, since she always wanted that.

Miller said she told her mother that, at age 32, she would be 40 by the time she became a lawyer. She recalls her mother replying, "Well, you're going to be 40 anyway."

In those days it was affordable to explore different careers, Miller said, noting at the U of M it was \$3,000 a semester and now it is \$60,000 a year and students come away with an incredible debt.

She got accepted at the University of Michigan Law School in the summer of 1976 and graduated in December of 1979.

Miller said Donna Hall was running the bar for her while she was in law school and was Miller's accountant. "She was brilliant," Miller said of Hall.

After she got out of law school Miller first practiced with a firm in Wayne and then decided to open her own practice in Belleville.

"The first call I made was to First Step," she recalled, telling them she would have lots of time and was volunteering to all the women who need legal help at no charge, but they would have to pay their own fees.

She said she did that for three years until the big law firms got into the service.

"It was a wonderful experience," Miller

recalled "I met so many wonderful people."

She said she had four or five years of experience by then and the First Step director said since she had been doing so much work without charge, she had a big case for Miller. She said the woman with the big case had a husband with lots of money and, "I got paid."

The daughter of the woman client helped with the case. She was a graduate of a university in Ohio and was so motivated by the case, that she went to law school and called Miller to tell her about it.

Miller said she encouraged people to go back to school and get counseling and take the legal challenge as a sea change in their lives.

"They can have a good life. You don't have to be a victim," she said.

While running Rogalle's, before law school, Miller met Bob Miller, an engineer, who worked at a company out of Wayne and was at Rogalle's for an office party. He was a former CIA agent. A year and a half later they married and Barbara gave birth to their son Philip. But, the marriage didn't work out.

"He was very smart, a brilliant mathematician. Phil is brilliant with numbers," she said.

Their divorce was final during her first year of law school and she had a live-in nanny, Olla, to take care of Philip and her brother Lawrence. "God sent her to me," Miller said. "She was so nice."

Miller recalled that her mother belonged to the Book of the Month Club and each month bought a book for her, some for the children, and an art book. She said her mother would listen to the radio and she and Lawrence also would listen and page through the art books for hours.

"We didn't know what we were looking at, but it was beautiful," Miller said.

One of her efforts in Belleville has been to bring culture to the community. The Belleville Area Music Committee came first, in 1988 or '89, where she brought music each Sunday to Victory Park.

She said the project received a lot of support. She was able to raise the money needed to pay the musical groups that performed.

This showed there was really an interest in culture in the community, she said. The late Chesley Odom was here and "we talked and asked why not start an art group?" The Belleville Area Council for the Arts was formed. Miller said they planned music at his place on Main Street, an art show and Art Smart in the schools.

As an aside, Miller said the 100 Art Smart portfolios are now at the high school library and she would like to take them to

(continued on page 8)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Time to be thankful for what we've got

Thanksgiving Day reminds us to be grateful for what we have and who we have in our community, working hard to make things better.

After Rosemary Loria's death on Nov. 15, Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley noted during a council meeting that Rosemary had served the community in very many different ways. She urged people to reflect on life and those that are important to them because life is really short.

It's better to thank people while they are alive to hear it and we should all remember that.

There is a Van Buren Township police officer struggling with cancer who has his fellow officers donating their hours to his record so he will be able to retire in the spring. They are proving to him now that he is valuable and they really care.

Other communities are mourning police officers shot in the line of duty. Police officers everywhere mourn these officers no matter where they may be and many are wearing black bands across their badges in memory of those lost.

At the last Van Buren Township meeting, Trustee Kevin Martin publicly thanked the VBT police officers and fire fighters who tended to him when his vehicle was totaled on Tyler Road west of Belleville Road during the Nov. 11 snowstorm.

We suggest everyone thank our local officers and fire fighters when we see them for the work they do to keep our communities safe. Thank you, all.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Leonard Armstrong told me he is having a knee replaced in December, but his Funland on Belleville Road **will** be open next spring.

Leonard said with Mike Foley shutting Frosty Boy in Belleville last summer while having cancer treatments and with Funland closed last summer for Leonard's recuperation, people were complaining to him that they had to drive to Canton for ice cream.

Leonard plans to be open in the spring and so does Mike, so there should be plenty of ice cream to go around.

Grant Memering tells me he will be having surgery in December, as well. He's getting a hip replacement.

Grant also is dealing with the fire that destroyed the second floor of his home on Sumpter Road. He said the home probably will have to be torn down and rebuilt.

Best wishes to Grant on his surgery and his house.

You remember Grant. He regularly advertises in our paper during the spring, summer, and fall when he is out and around doing asphalt driveways and parking lots – and some concrete drives, as well. He's really good at what he does.

His small signs with "GMS" on them in red letters pop up everywhere during the summer.

A Belleville resident reported on Wednesday that the former nuns' home at St. Anthony Catholic Church on West Columbia Avenue in the city is gone. It has been demolished. And, he said, there is a sign that encourages people to sign up for



Mercy High School. He thought they were going to build a high school on that site.

I called the rectory and was told the Archdiocese of Detroit owns all the church property there and it was decided there was no way of using the old house that hadn't been lived in for two years. So, they donated the contents and furniture to where it could be used and tore down the house.

As to the sign, other Catholic churches with schools sometime ask permission to put up a sign to advertise their schools. In fact, a school from Canton had just called to ask to put up a sign. January is Catholic School Month.

The former site of the nuns' house will be a square of green grass, maybe a park, we're told.

A new Aldi's opened last Thursday at 3299 Carpenter Rd. in Pittsfield Township. The first 100 people to enter got gift cards worth from \$10 to \$100 each. Aldi also has stores in Van Buren and Canton townships and Ann Arbor.

It's been strange to see people raking their leaves out of the snowbanks. The heavy snow came on Nov. 11 and many of the trees had yet to lose their leaves. Then the leaves drifted down on top of the snow. Now, as the snow melts, leaves are everywhere.

Apparently, a safety consultant told the

Van Buren Township board that it needed another door in the meeting room, behind the board table, so they could escape if there was an active shooter in the room.

"I don't know how anybody could get to a door if there's a shooter in the room," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara at the board's work/study session on Nov. 18.

Trustee Paul White asked if they could armor-plate the board table and McNamara laughed at that. He said he took a tour of Metro Airport and they showed him that a small area that was armored cost a half million dollars.

"I'm sorry, I'm not worth that," McNamara said, laughing.

The board table is going to be refinished and it was recommended that the new board table top be covered with Corian. But Trustee Reggie Miller said she put Corian in her kitchen and it scratches easily. Board members could come look at it, if they wanted. She said they could get a nice top made of vinyl.

Director of Public Services Matt Best, said they hired an interior designer who suggested the Corian.

McNamara said they would put a placeholder of \$13,000 for the counter top and decide later what the board wants.



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"When you trip over love, it is easy to get up. But when you fall in love, it is impossible to stand again."

— Albert Einstein

Letters

Angel of Hope ceremony set for Friday, Dec. 6

To the editor:

Each year on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m., around the world, parents that have experienced the death of a child gather around the Angel of Hope statue in their area to remember their child. The death of a child – no matter how long their life – is different than any other death. As parents, we are not supposed to outlive our children.

In 2002, with the support and generosity of the Belleville and Van Buren communities, an Angel of Hope Statue was brought and placed at Hillside Cemetery. Each year since, the Angel of Hope Ceremony has taken place on Dec. 6.

If you have experienced the death of any of your children, please join us for this moving ceremony. We will gather around the statue, hear the names of our children spoken, and receive a flower to keep or place at the foot of the statue.

If you would like to have your child's name included in the program and spoken aloud, please contact Patricia Monroe before Dec. 2 at the Brown Family Center at (734) 697-5090.

The Brown Family Center provides no-cost Grief Counseling to anyone in the community that is struggling following the death of a loved one.

Patricia Monroe, Grief Counselor
Brown Family Center, Belleville

Reach out to someone who is alone this holiday

To the editor:

Dear Tri-Community Neighbors. As Americans, we have much to be thankful for. While we take for granted our everyday "gifts" - our health and well-being, our warm homes, our jobs, etc., we need also to remind ourselves of our precious God-given freedoms.

I am personally very thankful for Freedom of Religion which allows me to loudly and publicly proclaim He is the source of every good and priceless gift. I am troubled with the thought of homelessness and hunger. What a wonderful world this would be if each of us would reach out to someone in need.

Do you know of someone who lives alone; someone you could share your

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God Bless America.

Thank you,
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
Belleville

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Dec. 5** – Jubilee Christmas Concert with Legacy 5 & Greater Vision at 7 p.m., hosted by Bethany Bible Church, Belleville. Purchase tickets at bethanybiblechurch.com.

• **Thursday, Dec. 5** – Professor and historian Greg Sumner will present "Michigan POW Camps in WWII" at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Free.

• **Friday, Dec. 6** – Southwestern Wayne County Democratic Club Holiday Party at UAW Local 898 at 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti (about 1.5 miles west of Rawsonville Road). Social hour at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Donation of \$25 includes dinner, beer, wine, and setups. Silent Auction, 50/50, fishbowl raffle. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell is special guest. Information: Terree O'Neil Darling at (313) 971-5027 or Debbie Chamberlain at (734) 634-3569.

• **Saturday, Dec. 7** – Winter Fest in downtown Belleville with a long list of events. The lighted parade starts at 6 p.m., followed by fireworks from the Denton Road Bridge at 7:30 p.m.

• **Sunday, Dec. 8** – Free Sunday Music from 2-5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township. Today the music is by Southern Express.

• **Sunday, Dec. 8** – Belleville Area Community Chorus presents its 14th annual holiday concert, "Carols in Candlelight," at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., in Belleville. Children's Choir will participate. Free. Donations accepted.

• **Tuesday, Dec. 10** – Red Cross Blood Drive at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., from 1 to 6:45 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Dec. 10** – Red Cross Blood Drive at Veterans of Foreign Wars #4434, 44170 Bemis Rd., Van Buren Township, from 1 to 6:45 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 14** – Ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. to open the branch of the Belleville Area District Library, a media center across Sumpter Road from the Sumpter Township Hall. The media center will open for business after the ribbon-cutting.

• **Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15** – Bethany Bible Church is presenting its annual Christmas Choir Concert, performing "Joy! He Shall Reign" on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. at the church at 810 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville.

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Matthes Tree Farm in nearby Ida is one of the few places in Southeast Michigan where you can cut your own Christmas tree, eat lunch, listen to live music, and enjoy other activities. It's been in business for more than 50 years. Owners Kate and Caleb Matthes are third-generation tree farm operators and they took over the business in 2016. Their tree selection includes pine, fir and spruce along with roping, wreaths, and centerpieces. There's a petting zoo on weekends along with hay and pony rides and kids can visit the Santa Shop and see Santa himself on weekends starting Nov. 30 through Dec. 22. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday. See their ad in today's paper for a \$3-off coupon on trees. The farm is located at 13416 Lulu Rd., Ida. Visit www.matthestrefarm.com and call (734) 269-2668. Find them on Facebook, too.

Today's paper features an insert from Tractor Supply, Inc., with locations in Canton on Michigan Avenue, Saline, and Monroe. Visit www.tractorsupply.com for hours and other locations. If you'd like to know more on how you can have your flyer or advertisement inserted into this newspaper, call me at (734) 699 9020.

Two blood donor drives are coming to the area next month and will take place on the same day, Tuesday, Dec 10, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at both locations: the VFW Post 4434 on Bemis Road east of Sumpter Road and at Van Buren Township Municipal Center on Tyler Road. To schedule an appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Coney hot dogs are now just 99 cents each every day, now through the end of the 2019 season at the Belleville A&W Restaurant on West Columbia Avenue near 5 Points.

The drive-in is open in any weather and carry-outs are available, too. Call (734) 699-1800. Like them on Facebook.

Atchinson Ford on Belleville Road is feeding local families in need and you can help. The dealership will be giving away a beautiful pine tree that will be planted in a place of your choice. You can get an entry in the tree drawing with any food donation of non-perishable items and/or monetary donations. Entries for the drawing and food items can be dropped off during regular business hours, which are Monday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All donations will be going to the community food bank at Belleville First United Methodist Church. See Atchinson's ad in today's paper and visit www.atchinson.net.

It's Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30, a day dedicated to support small business in the tri-community with the motto of Shop & Dine Local, Downtown on the Lake. And, it's Ladies Night Out on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. at area restaurants, stores and businesses. Visit www.buyitinbelleville.com for special offers for some of the deals and discounts available around town. The Independent issue of Dec. 5 will feature more on Winterfest Weekend.

Animal Medical Center of Van Buren has been serving the community since April 2017 with Veterinarians Scott Driscoll and Keri Dasher offering professional veterinary services and the latest in medicine and technology for the benefit and overall wellness of your pet. AMC offers services such as surgery, dentistry, x-rays, ultrasound, an in-house pharmacy, and compassionate end-of-life care. They're accepting new clients, too. Hours

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Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

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Service Charge	\$4,890.00
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Obituaries



Paul Henry Johnson, Sr.

PAUL HENRY JOHNSON, SR.

(December 4, 1948 – November 19, 2019)

Age 71, of Van Buren Township, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Paul is the beloved husband of Renee' for thirty-seven wonderful years; cherished father of Paul (Krista) Johnson Jr. of Texas, Christina (Raymond Holliday) Johnson of West Bloomfield, Brian (Elena) Johnson of California, Matthew Johnson of Van Buren Township, Hailey Johnson Van Buren Township; beloved brother of Ron Begin, Everett (Rosemary) Johnson Jr. of Melvindale, Beverly (Gary) Frazier of Ortonville, David Johnson of North Carolina, Theresa (Bill) Ford of St. Clair Shores and Dale (Roxanne) Johnson of Detroit. Mr. Johnson is also survived by nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, his dog, "Iza" and many loving extended family and friends.

A proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving during the Vietnam War, Paul and his family have been residents of Van Buren Township for over thirty years. Paul loved taking care of his home by taking care of the grounds, including riding his tractor, tree trimming and maintaining the lawns. In the fall, he enjoyed cheering on his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers on to victory. Mostly, he loved his family and would do anything for them. He will be very missed.

A celebration of life, with military honors rendered, was held at 7:00 PM, Saturday, November 23, 2019 at the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville. The Johnson family greeted guests from 4:00 PM until the 7:00 PM service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital or the Van Buren Township Police Department.



Silk LaParry-Townsend

SILK JUNE LaPARRY-TOWNSEND

(July 25, 1946 – November 18, 2019)

Bottom of Form

Age 73, of Belleville. Silk married the love of her life, Ken Townsend, and they were together for 33 years, until his passing in 2012. She was the nicest woman anyone has ever known.

Survived by her children, Kileen (Don Clark) LaParry, Robert Keith Alder, and Dan Townsend; and by her spoiled dog, Dionysus.

A memorial service will be held at noon Saturday, November 30, 2019 at Authentic Church, 6250 Gilmore St., Belleville, with gathering at 11 a.m.



Dorothy H. Nieman

DOROTHY H. NIEMAN

(September 2, 1932 – November 20, 2019)
Bottom of Form

Mrs. Dorothy Hazel Nieman passed away Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at her home surrounded by her devoted family. She was born September 2, 1932 in Belleville, MI the daughter of Clarence and Ella (Hartwig) Wallman. On November 28, 1953 she married her soul mate, Elroy Henry Nieman, in New Boston, MI. Dorothy and Elroy shared 60 wonderful years together and were lifelong Belleville residents. Dorothy loved to cook and bake, everything she made was delicious! She enjoyed making ceramics and sewing, as well as gardening and traveling with her husband. They loved nothing more than tending their garden in the summer, and road-tripping throughout the US in their RV during the colder months. Dorothy graduated from Grace Hospital School of Nursing in 1953 and was a Registered Nurse at Belleville Hospital in Belleville, MI and Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, MI for many years. However, she was never happier than when she was with her beloved husband and family.

Dorothy is survived by her beloved children, Debora (William) Myhand, Sherry Rye, and Mark (Wendy) Nieman; her adoring grandchildren Lauren (Jonathan) Villeneuve, Meghan (Brandon) Eller, Myriah Rye, and Kendal Anne and Erin Nieman; and her treasured great-grandchildren Matthew Villeneuve, Zachary and Adrianna Eller. She is preceded in death by her loving husband Elroy, as well as her mother, father, and brother.

Visitation was held on Saturday, November 23, from 3-8 PM, with a Memorial Celebration at 6 PM, at Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville 734-697-9400. Final visitation began at 2PM on Sunday, November 24, 2019 with services at 2:30 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 47445 W. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI. Burial followed at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. The family suggests memorial contributions to one of the following: Humane Society of Huron Valley, www.hshv.org/memorial; The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Donation Processing P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741 in lieu of flowers. www.hnfhome.com

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Dec. 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Van Buren Township Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 12 – Keystone Academy board meeting at 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m., if needed. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Miller retires

(continued from page 3)

Girlstown for classes and then have the DIA take the residents on a field trip to the DIA.

"It was wonderful," Miller said of Art Smart. But, eventually the number of volunteers fell and the classes stopped. It took preparation to teach the art and time in the middle of the day to go to the schools, so participating was quite a commitment.

"I am so fortunate to be a well-educated person and it all came out of this community," Miller said. "I need to go to the DIA. I need to know about the art.

"I have a lot of connections now and I try to bring that back here," she said.

She said New Boston is thinking of having music in the park and she linked them up with Ken Voigt, who has successfully run the Music Lakeside program in Belleville. And, Voigt and BeeBee Singleton recently put on a new Gospel Fest program in Sumpter Township that will be presented again next year.

"I enjoy what I'm doing and I throw myself into it," Miller said of all her projects.

Then, she said, she has yet to talk about the politics in her life.

"I took on the University of Michigan," Miller said, recalling how furious she was over Van Buren Township's plan to lease the 100 acres of Van Buren Park to the U of M. After much effort, she got it down to just the area around the boathouse and, "We're supposed to get the boathouse after 25 years as rent." She figures that date must be coming up and she'll have the time to get the paperwork and pursue the issue.

Then there was her part in the battle with Wayne County over the Belleville Bridge. She recalls they were going to take out the bridge completely while replacing it, like they did later in New Boston.

She remembers that she, Mayor Glenn Silvenis, and City Manager Bob Herron went to a recommended condemnation attorney and he told them what they really needed was an economic expert to tell what devastation to the town there would be if the bridge was shut down.

Miller said they threatened to sue the county if the county didn't give the city a temporary bridge -- and they did get the

county to leave the old bridge in place while the new one was built.

"We paid \$13,000," Miller said of the project.

Miller recalled her travels to China for five years to sell dental products. She had a friend who was an expert in dental equipment who learned there were no dentists in China. She came to Miller to set up a company and Miller became a part of the company.

They brought U of M dentists to China to talk about dental health and China paid for the experts. She and her friend sold products in the foyer of the meetings and got orders. But China cancelled the orders because they didn't want American products. They wanted to make them in China.

She said she and her friend stopped their project, but she became very interested in Chinese art.

In looking back at being one of the first women to take part in the doors opened by Title IX, Miller said she was in one of the first classes with numbers of women -- 110 -- at the University of Michigan. This is more women than had graduated in the previous 100 years, she said.

"We were pioneers," she recalled.

Also, she was in the first class with women at Notre Dame. Again, a pioneer.

Miller is known for her bright ideas and is always busy with new projects. She was responsible for starting the local League of Women Voters, is active in the Democratic Party, served on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, is one of the founders of the *Belleville-Area Independent*, brought Missoula Children's Theater back to Belleville, helped form the VBT Cable Commission and wrote the public access policies and procedures, and hounded the Belleville Area District Library Board to record its meetings until it started video recording the meetings and putting the videos on YouTube. And, more.

Miller also is a breast-cancer survivor.

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Court Watching**Prosecutor drops felony charge against Bailey, keeps domestic violence**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley was advised on Nov. 20 that the prosecutor had some issues with the gun and would

like to dismiss the felony charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder on Oct. 29 in Sumpter Township against Raymond Lee Bailey.

Bailey, 36, of Wyandotte, was in Judge Oakley's courtroom for his preliminary exam on the felony.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Larry King said they would continue with the domestic violence misdemeanor charge. The victim was not at the courthouse and King said they want to contact the victim

before the next court session.

Judge Oakley set a pretrial for Dec. 11 and continued the bond of \$10,000/10% which had been posted. The bond stipulates no contact with the victim. Retained defense attorney was James Sparrow.

Jazlyn Nicole Morgan

Jazlyn Nicole Morgan, 26, of Van Buren Township, on Nov. 20 was due for her preliminary exam before Judge Oakley on a charge of felony assault and a misdemeanor charge of domestic violence on Oct. 29 in Van Buren Township.

Prosecutor King said the witness in the case was not present and court-appointed defense attorney Patrick Nyenhuis made a motion to dismiss the charge and Judge Oakley dismissed.

The misdemeanor charge of domestic violence was set for a pretrial conference on Dec. 11. Morgan will have a different attorney for the misdemeanor, since attorneys appointed by the court to defend a felony charge are different from those appointed for misdemeanors.

Michael Lynn Laster
Tamara Tashia Elam

Co-defendants Michael Lynn Laster, 24, of Van Buren Township, and Tamara Tashia Elam, 25, of Ypsilanti, waived their preliminary exams before Judge Oakley on Nov. 20 and were bound over to circuit court for arraignment on the information on Dec. 4.

There are two cases against each defendant, since they are accused of armed robbery of the Hungry Howie's restaurant

on Nov. 2 and later the same morning another armed robbery at Walmart in Van Buren Township.

Laster also is charged with two counts of felony firearm.

The two are free on \$25,000 personal bond with GPS tethers.

Laster's court-appointed attorney is Jeffrey Schwartz and Elam's retained attorney is Sharon Woodside.

Jaylin Kasmier-Alante Crayton

Jaylin Kasmier-Alante Crayton, 24, had his arraignment on the information at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Nov. 13. A final conference was set for Dec. 6 and a jury trial for Dec. 23.

Crayton is charged with possession of a weapon by a felon, possession of ammunition by a felon, carrying a concealed weapon and two felony firearm charges in the early morning hours of July 22 near Lighthouse Point in Van Buren Township.

He is lodged in the Wayne County Jail on bond of \$20,000/10% and he has a warrant out for his arrest in Texas.

Terrence O'Neal

Terrence O'Neal, 63, of Van Buren Township was scheduled for a preliminary exam on Nov. 27 at 34th District Court on a charge of second-degree murder in the Nov. 5 shooting of his wife at their home and a felony firearm charge.

But on Nov. 20, his attorney asked for a competency exam, which was granted by Magistrate Lisa Martin. His next court appearance depends on when the exam is completed.

The exam will determine competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility, as well as competency as to the understanding of his Miranda Rights.

O'Neal was being lodged in the Wayne County Jail without bond, but a pretrial release order was generated.

O'Neal is being defended by the court-appointed Neighborhood Defender Service.

Samuel Stephens

Samuel Stephens, 30, of Ann Arbor was charged with unarmed robbery on Sept. 23 in Van Buren Township. He was due for his probable cause conference on Nov. 20, but his father called the court to say his son was committed into the psychiatric unit at the University of Michigan. The father also dropped off paperwork to the

(continued on page 11)

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Jerry Zywicki and Peggy Hiveley were married at Fellowship Baptist Church in Wayne, MI, on Nov. 29, 1969. The reception followed at the PNA Hall in Sumpter Township.

They live together in Sumpter Township in the same home they

built in 1969.

An early 50th anniversary celebration took place in May on Mackinac Island along with their daughter Erica Fulton, son-in-law Eddy, and grandsons Colin and Ethan.

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Court watching

(continued from page 9)

court. Stephens was free after posting bond of \$20,000/10%. The probable cause conference was rescheduled for Dec. 4 before Magistrate Lisa Martin.

Stephens also was due for a review of the charge of false request for ambulance service on Nov. 9 in Van Buren Township. The review also was rescheduled for Dec. 4.

Omar Malikarnold Reeves

Omar Malikarnold Reeves, 23, of Ypsilanti was charged with two counts of aiming a firearm without malice and one count of carrying a concealed weapon while under the influence on July 7 in Van Buren Township.

On Nov. 20, Prosecutor King presented the plea agreement which had Reeves pleading guilty to one count of aiming a firearm without malice, with the other two charges dismissed. Reeves told Judge Oakley that he has worked at Ford Motor Company for five years and attorney James Andary added that his client is attending Washtenaw Community College and has a 3.4 grade point average.

"I read the report on this and it scares the

hell out of me," said Judge Oakley, adding, "CPL comes with awesome responsibility. I don't know where you took the class, but it is a bad class."

Judge Oakley recommended an attorney who teaches a CPL class that gets into the legal part of firearms. "If he sets you up in a class and you complete it, it's a good CPL class." Judge Oakley said as a private citizen he would feel better if Reeves took this class.

He said he would levy no court costs based on successful completion of a CPL class by Terry Johnson or whoever he recommends. The sentence was delayed for 12 months and if Reeves completes the year without further problems the guilty plea will be wiped from his record.

Sean Demetrius Elliott

Sean Demetrius Elliott, 17, of Van Buren Township, waived his preliminary exam at his probable cause conference on Nov. 13 before Magistrate Martin and was bound over to circuit court for a Nov. 27 arraignment on the information.

Elliott is charged with felonious assault and felony firearm on Oct. 14 in Van Buren Township. His retained attorney is Ruth Carter and Daniel Reed stood in for Carter at Elliott's hearing before Magistrate Martin.

Lincoln Consolidated School District sells 2019 refunding bonds

The Lincoln Consolidated School District announces the successful sale of its 2019 Refunding Bonds (federally taxable) in the amount of \$19,450,000.

The 2019 Refunding Bonds are being issued for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding indebtedness of the school district to the State of Michigan under the State of Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program and to pay the costs of issuing the bonds.

The bonds reduce the repayments to the State of Michigan by a total estimated amount of \$1,906,000. The estimated reduction in repayments is based upon assumptions regarding the growth in the district's taxable value and School Bond Loan Fund interest rate.

In preparing to sell the 2019 Refunding Bonds, the school district, working with its municipal advisor, PFM Financial Advisors LLC, requested that S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard and Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P") evaluate the school district credit quality. S&P assigned the school district the underlying rating of "A-" with a stable outlook. The rating agency cited the school district's good-to-strong income levels and strong market value per capita and available general fund reserves in their rationale for rating the school district at this level.

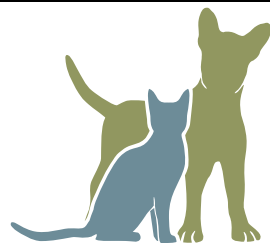
"We have financed the school bonds annually for the past four years," said School Supt. Sean McNatt. "The cumulative taxpayer savings by refinancing these bonds annually now tops \$20 million."

The school district's financing was conducted by the Michigan investment banking office of the brokerage firm Stifel, the municipal advising firm PFM Financial Advisors LLC, and the law firm serving as bond counsel, Thrun Law Firm P.C.

The school district's 2019 Refunding Bonds were sold at a federally taxable interest rate of 2.69% with a final maturity of 2030 (a repayment term of approximately 11 years).

"Lincoln Consolidated School District's bonds were well-received by the bond market," said Brodie Killian, managing director with Stifel. "The financing met the goals of the district and resulted in significant taxpayer savings."

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Marine veteran Joe Poston of Ypsilanti, husband of Paula Pence Poston, at left, was honored on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Van Buren Eagles with an Angel Bike by the Blue Star Mothers of America of St. Clair, Macomb and Lapeer counties. It was presented along with a plaque to Joe for his service in the Marine Corps and also honored U.S. Army PFC Moneeka Mayo of Wyoming, MI, who gave her life in 2008. "The bike is dedicated to the spirit of determination and strength of Moneeka and she will forever be remembered as Joe rides," said the Blue Star Mothers. Attending

were Moneeka's parents and daughter as well as many of Poston's friends. Poston is a member of the Van Buren Eagles and also is an Eagle Rider member.



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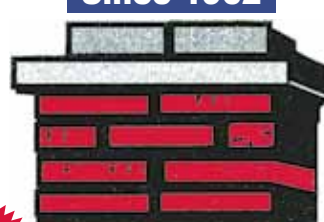
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Public amenities at Grace Lake explained to Van Buren Twp. LDFA

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting Nov. 13, the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority heard VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara ask about public access to Grace Lake trails and pond.

Supervisor McNamara said he received a complaint from a resident who is concerned the amenities at Grace Lake Corporate Center, the former Visteon Village, are not accessible to the public.

Scott Medlen, of Sovereign Partners

which now owns Grace Lake, is a member of the LDFA and he explained.

Medlen said Grace Lake is open to the public from dawn to dusk and the public is welcome to use the trails, eat lunch at the lake or walk around the lake. Fishing is not allowed and it makes him nervous to have people walking between and through the buildings.

He said activity there after dark usually is a problem. He has found beer cans, liquor bottles, cans of worms, used condoms, and smoking logs and red Solo cups on the

sidewalk in the morning.

"When the sun is up, there's no problem," he said.

He said the trails are available during daylight hours and he has put up gates at both ends that get closed at night. He said he had the gates closed since it snowed and he has no reason to open them up for the winter. He said he doesn't want to encourage the use of the trails by snowmobilers.

Medlen said people could walk around the gates to cross-country ski on the trails.

LDFA member John Delaney said he has told fishermen he saw at the lake that there is no fishing and they told him they are just catching and releasing, but then he saw them pull out a whole string of fish when they leave, "30 fish on a string," he said.

Delaney said the lake is spring-fed water and the fish are there to stock the pond, with eagles eating them now and then.

Medlen said there are small mouth bass, blue gill and carp.

Medlen said he had a question about Visteon Way, a county road that runs from Hannan Road to Ecorse through Grace Lake, and is deteriorating. He said 2,000 vehicles use that road each work day.

He said Wayne County never touches the road and his landscapers, WH Canon, have been clearing it from snow for the past few years as a discretionary move and didn't charge.

"This year, they put their foot down and are charging," Medlen said.

He said when it snowed Nov. 11, he told them not to touch it to see if the county came to clear it, but the county hasn't come.

Delaney said he has called Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous about the deteriorating road, but nothing has been done.

Medlen said some asphalt patching of holes in the cement has been done, but his experience shows that the asphalt will be gone by next year. He said some catch basins were replaced, as well.

Delaney said a catch basin was sticking up and a child on a bike hit it, fell and was injured. He said EMS came and, "I lost it."

Supervisor McNamara said Visteon Way

is a secondary road, like in Haggerty sub, and the county won't plow it until all the primary roads are done.

"I would recommend you deal with WH Canon," McNamara said. "The road is falling apart," he conceded.

Medlen said it is especially bad near Hannan Road.

LDFA member David Schreiber of Wayne County, said the county rates all its roads and prioritizes them to use the limited funds available.

"Two thousand cars a day is nothing," McNamara said, referring to how the rating is determined. "More than that come out of Haggerty sub."

"We want to do more for Visteon," said LDFA member Doug Peters, with tongue firmly in cheek. "We wouldn't want them to leave." [The township is planning to sue Visteon again over its refusal to give more money to help the township pay off the bonds floated to build the infrastructure for Visteon Village, which it has since sold to Sovereign Partners.]

McNamara said there is discretionary money for the county to use on roads.

Medlen asked for contact numbers for the county commissioner and staff at the road department to talk to them even though he was advised they won't help him with Visteon Way.

LDFA chairman Michael Dotson asked if the LDFA should consider changing the name of Visteon Way, as suggested by Delaney in the past.

Changing the name of a road is easy to do, McNamara said, just like changing your address.

"We wouldn't want to look petty," said Peters, suggesting they wait until the lawsuit is over.

McNamara asked Medlen if it was possible for Grace Lake to put up a sign for the public telling the hours. It could start with "Sharing our property with you ...," he said.

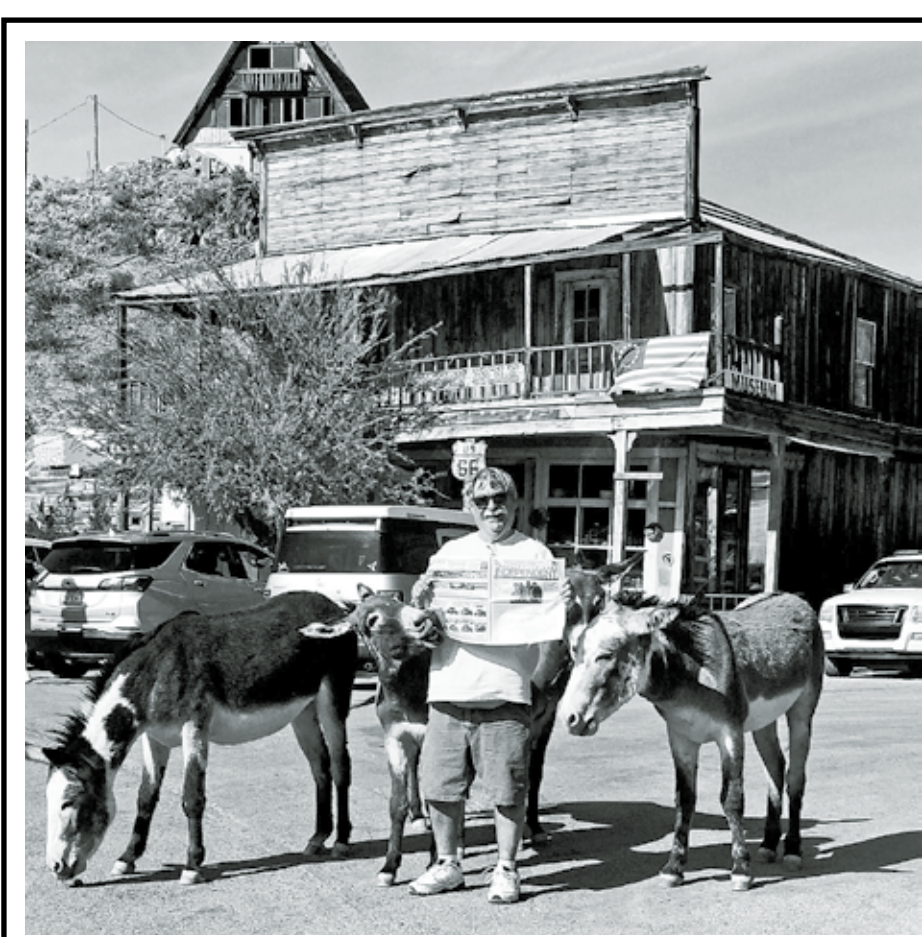
Medlen asked where the signs should be placed and Delaney said they should be by the trail head and the lake.

Medlen suggested telling the public where to park to use the trail. He said

(continued on page 16)



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They're reading the Independent everywhere

Mike Suliman of Van Buren Township reads his Independent in Oatman, Arizona, where the burros roam the streets. One is actually eating the corner of the paper on Oct. 24.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Keystone Academy board buys 35 ukuleles for music program

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Fifth grade music students at Keystone Academy will continue to have classes in playing the ukulele and singing along, without having to share a ukulele, since the Keystone school board bought them enough ukuleles for a whole classroom.

At its regular meeting on Nov. 14, the Keystone board voted to purchase 35 ukuleles, with cases and picks, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500.

This is from the board's budget for discretionary spending in the school.

Music teacher Kelly Vandembush said she started a ukulele program with 15 ukuleles that were loaned to her from a teacher in another school, who eventually asked for them back.

Three ukuleles were donated to the school from students from the last class. Some students got ukuleles for Christmas so they could practice at home.

"This allows kids who don't join band in fifth grade to learn how to play a musical instrument ... It's quick to learn and you can play with as little or as much skill as you will," she said.

She said with the 15 borrowed ukuleles, two students shared a ukulele, so one always had to wait for a turn.

She said her request includes picks for the ukuleles and a resource book with more songs, although she said she had a lot of songs in her head.

She said the students learn how to sing as they play and then they can perform at the

school's Arts, Beats, and Eats festival.

She said students who are in the band learn to play the band instrument and the ukulele -- two instruments.

Although the music teacher requested 30 ukuleles, the board approved an extra five to make sure they wouldn't have to borrow any so everyone could have an instrument.

In other business at the 90-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved spending \$3,500 for what was referred to as "Christmas Marketing," for gifts for all the employees and board members -- about 80;

- Approved and accepted the 2018-19 audit report from Plante Moran;

- Approved the School Emergency Operations Plan with corrected spellings of some names in the 80-page document;

- Approved a resolution to relinquish federal funds for Title III Immigrant Student Allocations. Andrew Roth of National Heritage Academies explained that the state money is for kids not born on U.S. soil or immigrants. He said there are five such students at Keystone and at \$86 each that is \$430 total. "Tell the MDA (Michigan Department of Education) thanks, but no thanks. It's too much work for the teacher and is very restrictive. Only five kids can use it," Roth said. "It's not worth our time," Drain agreed;

- Noted there have been 117 tardy students since school started in September and 48 absences. Principal Jorvana Drain said in June a parent made the Sumpter Township Police aware of a parental responsibility

law and the police department said they will work with the school. She said Van Buren has its own truancy officer. Principal Drain said students with 10 absences are referred to the Sumpter Police Department. "I'm so grateful Sumpter Township has stepped in here," said board president Vesta Losen. She said Keystone has asked Wayne County for help in the past, but the county said there are too many absences and they couldn't handle it;

- Approved the 2019-20 amended budget. President Losen said there are fewer students and that will make 25 per class. "I'm happy it's not 28 ... and NHA is actually putting more money into the budget for students," Losen said. "I'm sorry for the kids who aren't here to experience NHA, but although we can do it, 28 per class is over the top." The \$240 per pupil was vetoed by the governor in a political move, Roth said. Losen said there are fewer students and less money coming in, and now the governor's cut reduced the budget even more. She said while Keystone doesn't bus students, they do have to maintain their building just like any other school;

- Learned Rosalie Giannotti has volunteered to serve again as Keystone's representative on the ISD Parent Advisory Committee; and

- Heard parent Jessica Lane say a lot of parents are concerned about the truancy and absentee rules and they should be given more information, so they understand. She said they don't want to get into trouble. Lane asked if her child is sick one day, is he in trouble? She presented a letter to the board on the issue and Losen accepted it and said she would make sure board members got it. Losen said they have had an ongoing problem with truanties. Lane said everyone is panicking. Principal Drain said anyone with concerns or questions should contact the school so they are not confused by rumors and heresay. She said

she had sent out a letter on the subject. Lane said when there was inclement weather, minus four degrees out, there were 75 kids lined up. "A lot of parents are concerned," Lane said. Dean Robyn Mallari said in the past the school pushed the tardy time to 8:10 and 8:15 a.m. and parents were pushing it to 8:30 a.m. "We opened a can of worms," she said. Drain said on Nov. 11 when it stormed, she held off tardies to 8:10 a.m. She said if the roads are icy, parents should plan accordingly, leave early. And, she said, there weren't 75 lined up. "They made it here on time," Drain said "I want to be understanding of the weather, but to uphold our policies. My staff has to be here on time. If the snow is heavy, I'll consider extending tardies, but tardies start at 8 o'clock."



Nov. 28 – Jacqueline Copeland, Justine Kimbler (twins)

Nov. 29 – Linda Endicott

Nov. 30 – Gayle Pitzen, Charlie Butler III

Dec. 1 – Rochelle McArthur

Dec. 3 – Pam Johnson, Virginia Short, Joseph Nellis

Dec. 4 – Amber Brendtke, Jeff Goff

Dec. 5 – Justin Juriga

Dec. 6 – Tara Steward

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) To correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Homestead exemption status; and
- 3) Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 10, 2019.

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Post: November 15, 2019

Publish: November 21, 2019
November 28, 2019
December 5, 2019

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VBT LDFA

(continued from page 13)

Grace Lake has security – a daytime firm and a nighttime company.

Medlen said VBT Police Lt. Charles Bazy said he should set specific hours, but the daylight changes times around the year, so they have set “dawn to dusk.”

“It’s in my best interests to have people understand” about the rules for using the property.

Delaney said there is plenty of grass and acreage at Grace Lake to hold events and then clean up afterward. He suggested soccer could be played there.

“I’d like to know ahead of time,” Medlen said of events on the property. He said if they wanted to play soccer, he would want to direct them to a smooth area so they don’t fall on the rough surface.

In other business at the 38-minute meeting, the LDFA:

- Approved the 2020 LDFA Budget as prepared by VBT Deputy Treasurer Sean Bellingham. There is \$685,000 in property tax income and \$1,970,000 in bond payment;

- Heard McNamara announce the LDFA will be borrowing \$1.6 million from the township in 2020 to pay on the bonds for Visteon infrastructure. In 2019, the township borrowed \$577,543 from the township to pay on the bonds;

- Approved the 2020 LDFA meeting schedule: 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14; Wednesday, March 11; and Tuesdays May 12, July 14, Sept. 8, and Nov. 10; and

- Learned the informational meetings in accordance with Public Act 57 of 2018 (Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act) will be at the March 11 and Sept. 8 meetings. McNamara’s executive assistant Dan Selman is managing the LDFA and

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE Special City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, October 21, 2019

A special called meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 6:00 p.m. in the Belleville High School Commons, 501 W. Columbia, Belleville.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

Public Safety Special Assessment

Mayor Conley led a question-and-answer type discussion on the proposed Public Safety Special Assessment, asking citizens for their input and questions. Council Member Marcotte read aloud the proposal language on the ballot for the November 5th city election in response to a citizen’s request. Council members took turns answering citizen questions.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Marcotte to adjourn meeting at 6:58 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf

City Clerk

Approved: November 4, 2019

Published: November 28, 2019

he said he is using the template for these informational meetings set up by Ron Akers, the former director of planning and economic development. Anyone with any suggestions on the format of the meetings is asked to call Chairman Dotson.

All members of the LDFA were present for this meeting, including Chuck Covington who participated via phone from Houston, TX.

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, October 21, 2019

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m. in the Belleville High School Commons, 501 W. Columbia, Belleville.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations None

Council follow up list None

Citizen Comments

Raynard and Toni Anderson stated they were moving from Waterford to Belleville and would like to use their ministry to benefit Belleville residents, particularly youth.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve the agenda with one addition: Mayor’s appointment to the DDA.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Loria to approve the City Council meeting minutes from October 7th, 2019 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES -None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Winterfest – Egan’s Pub Service in Fourth St. Square

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 19-071, a request from Egan’s Pub to serve alcohol at four (4) Winterfest activities detailed by a Chamber of Commerce request previously approved via Resolution No. 19-058 on September 3, 2019.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Mayor’s Appointment to DDA

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 19-072, endorsing Mayor Conley’s appointment of Kelly McWilliams to the DDA as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 19-073, for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 totaling \$254,377.47 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ken Voigt stated that there will be a community art show November 1st through 3rd and that details could be found on the BACA website and FaceBook.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to adjourn meeting at 7:48 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf

City Clerk

Approved: November 4, 2019

Published: November 28, 2019



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW



The December Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Belleville City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. The Board will correct any clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact pertaining to the 2019 property assessments.

Property assessments can only be changed for:

1. Homestead exemption status
2. Poverty exemptions
3. Disabled veterans exemptions

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk

Publish: November 28th and 12-5-19

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. . . At the Independent
699-9020**



City of Belleville Public Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE TO RESTATE THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND TOXIC CHEMICALS SECTION OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES



The Belleville City Council will conduct a public hearing on December 2, 2019 beginning at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the agenda will permit. The hearing will be conducted at the City of Belleville City Hall, located at 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to “restate the controlled substance and toxic chemicals section of the City of Belleville Code of Ordinances.”

Pertinent information is available for review at Belleville City Hall during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments may be submitted to the City Council at the above address prior to the meeting. Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on December 2, 2019. After that time and date, they may be hand-delivered to the City Council at the December 2, 2019 public hearing.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: November 21 and 28, 2019



CITY OF BELLEVILLE
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 4, 2019

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations
 A. Scarecrow Contest Winners were announced. Mayor along with City Council Members presented a certificate with a photo of their scarecrow to the winners.

Business Category – Centric Learning Systems.
 Families/Individuals – Bella Boo of Bellaville Transylvania.

Youth Groups/Organization – Tyler Elementary School.

Adult Groups/Organizations – Women of the Moose #1135.

Council follow up list	None.
Citizen Comments	None.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve the Special City Council meeting minutes from October 21, 2019 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes from October 21, 2019 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A. Penalties for Juveniles Who Violate City Code of Ordinances.

Adoption of this Ordinance was requested by 34th District Court Judges.

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 19-074 and call a public hearing to receive public comment on this Ordinance for Monday, November 18, 2019 at 7:30pm.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Kiwanis Club of Belleville Request for use of a portion of Horizon Park.

Request was made to install American Flags in ground posts in a portion of Horizon Park on 2020 summer holidays.

Motion by Loria, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 19-075, a request from Kiwanis Club of Belleville to use a portion of Horizon Park to place American Flags in ground posts.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 19-076, for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 totaling \$73,881.54 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Fire Chief Loranger stated that Fire Auxiliary has ordered and put up signs encouraging the public to vote Yes on the Public Safety Special Assessment.

Veteran's Ceremony will take place at the Memorial on 11/11 at 11:00am.

Police Chief Berriman stated that there was low turnout for downtown Trick or Treat.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn meeting at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana J. Kollmeyer

City Manager

Approved: November 18, 2019

Published: November 28, 2019

Javon Stacks set for exam on animal cruelty charges

Javon Pherras Stacks, 36, is scheduled for a preliminary exam before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott on Dec. 4.

Stacks is charged with abandoning/cruelty to 10 or more animals, but fewer than 25, on Aug. 15 in Romulus. He also is charged with two separate charges of

abandoning/cruelty to one animal on the same date.

In the past, Stacks had some animals located in a closed store at Belle Plaza in Belleville, which brought complaints to Belleville City Hall, and later in a location in Lakeside shopping center in Van Buren

Township. The charges he faces now are from a Romulus location.

According to reports, several local people have been subpoenaed to testify at the Dec. 4 exam. Court records identify Stacks' defense attorney as Eric Clark.

Stacks is free on \$5,000 personal bond.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP
 OF VAN BUREN
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
 MINUTES
 NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White. Others in attendance: Secretary Beaudry, Communication Specialist Albrecht, Executive Assistant Selman, Fire Marshall McNally, Director of Public Services Best, Director of Water and Sewer Taylor, Executive Assistant Renaud and an audience of six (6).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Budd moved, Frazier seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Martin moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session minutes of October 14, 2019, Board Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2019, Prepaid List of October 17, 2019, Prepaid List of October 24, 2019, Prepaid List of October 31, 2019, Prepaid List of November 7, 2019, Prepaid List of November 14, 2019, Voucher List of October 15, 2019, Voucher List of November 5, 2019, Voucher List of November 19, 2019, Approval of Resolution 2019:27: Deficit Elimination Plan as approved by Plante Moran and Township Attorneys, Approval of AFSCME Contract Health Care Savings Plan Updates, Approval of the Re-appointments of Charles Larocque as an alternative to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire December 1, 2022, Scott Medlen to the LDFA with a term to expire August 12, 2023, Carol Thompson to the Planning Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2022, Joan Franzoi to the Planning Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2022 and Carmen Stovall as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to expire December 1, 2022, Approval of Resolution 2019-26: To Revise the Water & Sewer Commission By-Laws and Meeting Schedule, Approval of the Commercial Fireworks Display Permit Application by Michigan Fireworks Club to set off fireworks on Saturday, December 7, 2019]. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

**C O R R E S P O N D E N C E /
 ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:**

Announcements included the following: Goodfellows is taking applications for Christmas assistance up until December 6 at 3:00 p.m. Applicants must be residents of

Belleville or Van Buren Township and must submit applications in person to either police department with proper identification. The Senior Center will be holding their annual bake sale on Saturday, December 7th, donations can be dropped off the day before; November 26th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the Belleville Area Museum will be hosting the Belle Noelle Tree Festival; Medicare open enrollment assistance will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Township Hall on Wednesday, November 20th; the Parks and Recreation Department's Craft Show will take place on Saturday, December 7th from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and the Quirk Park Splash pad has been awarded the 2020 Park Design Award by the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

Presentations included the following: The Fire Department, partnered with the Water and Sewer Department have begun mapping and inspecting Township fire hydrants in an effort to keep all hydrants in good repair.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: McNamara moved, Budd seconded to approve the adoption of Resolution 2019-23: Annual Exemption (Opt-Out) from 2011 PA 152. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Miller, Frazier, Martin, White. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Martin seconded to approve the authorization of the Equipment Transfer Agreement to Van Buren Public Schools with the amendment that the price of the equipment will not be sold below a value of \$100 or above a value of \$1,000. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve awarding a contract to Wade Trim not to exceed the amount of \$48,000 to provide engineering services for the Beck Road By-Pass Valve and VB-06 Instrumentation upgrade. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance #11-19-19(4) to rezone the property shown on the attached map (part of the ITC Corridor), (Parcel ID# V-125-83-041-99-0001-002) from RM, Multiple Family Residential to M-1, Light Industrial. The Parcel is a narrow band of land which is part of the ITC corridor, which runs through the Ashely Crossroads South development. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Budd seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance #11-19-19(1) to rezone parcels V-125-83-105-99-0054-000 and V-125-83-105-99-0008-000; otherwise known as 791 Savage Road and 13720 Martinsville Road, respectively from M-1, Light Industrial to R1-B, Single Family Residential. Motion Carried.

White moved, Frazier seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance #11-19-19(3) to amend the Township's Future Land Use Map in the Township's Master Plan to change the future land use designation of the property located at 41620 E. Huron River Drive as RM, Multiple Family Residential with a note that states, "Land uses should be limited for parcel 83-089-99-0010-702 to single family detached dwellings at a maximum density of 6-7 single family dwelling units per acre. Motion Carried. Martin moved, Wright seconded to approve the proposed change order of the Board Room Renovation project to include updated design elements to the scope of work with the amendment that the podium not be moved and the cabinets in the Trustee Room not be updated. Trustee Miller called the question. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Frazier and Martin. Nays: White and Miller. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Wright seconded to approve the purchase of a 2020 Ford Escape from Atchinson Ford. This vehicle will be utilized as a Fleet Vehicle. Total vehicle cost is \$22,331.88. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Frazier, Miller and Martin. Nays: White. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-150 from Atchinson Ford. This vehicle will be utilized as a Fleet Vehicle. Total vehicle cost is \$32,833.60. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Wright, Budd, Frazier, Miller and Martin. Nays: White. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: The July 2019 Budgetary Report, August 2019 Budgetary Report and September 2019 Budgetary Report were accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: A resident from Walden Woods subdivision requested the Board's assistance in getting street lights installed in certain sections of her subdivision. She also requested the portion of Morton Taylor from Tyler to Heatherfield paved as promised from the builders per the original agreement with the Township.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: Public Safety Director Laurain and Fire Chief Brow were thanked for the quick and professional response of their staff during an accident that a Trustee was involved in.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Martin seconded to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
 Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
 Published: November 28, 2019

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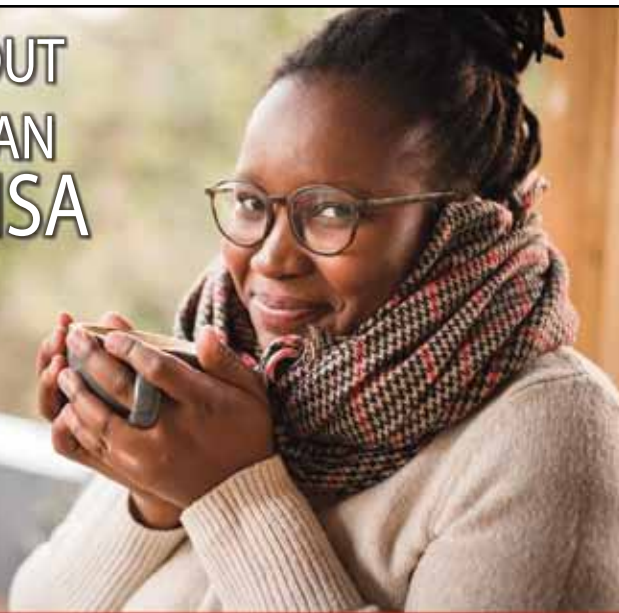
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BELLEVILLE



Belleville High School student Cassidy Brendtke has signed with Western Michigan University to play softball next year. Pictured with her are David and Pamela Brendtke.

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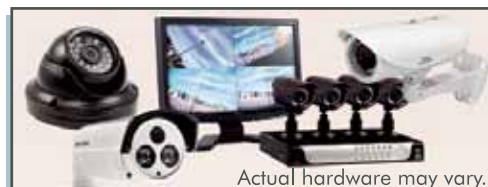


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Belleville Area District Library

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(Kids--if you are too shy to whisper in Santa's ear, bring your hand-written wish list!)

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Dear Friends,

This is a letter that our family has read as a part of our Thanksgiving celebration. It was written to the President of the United States by Chief Seattle, just before the transfer of their land.



Happy Thanksgiving, Glenn

“Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the children of the earth. If we spit upon the ground, we spit upon ourselves. This we know. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth....”

“One thing we know, which the white man may one day discover..... our God is the same God. You may think now that you own Him as you wish to own our land; but you cannot. He is The God of all people, and His compassion is equal for all. This earth is precious to God, and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its Creator..”

“So love it as we have loved it. Care for it as we have cared for it. And with all your strength, with all your mind, with all your heart, preserve it for your children, and love.... as God loves us all.”

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